



DECEMBER 2016 PROGRAM CALENDAR

Come out and play at Patapsco Valley State Park & Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area!



Eligible for the Model B Junior Ranger Program

Every Wednesday — Story Hour — Hilton Nature Center — 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. — Rain or shine!

FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-461-5005 to register. Fun for all ages!*

Join us every Wednesday to hear a nature-themed story read by one of our naturalists. **Geared toward children under 10.*

Every Sunday — Feathered Friends — Soldiers Delight Visitor Center — 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. — Rain or shine!

FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-922-3044 to register. Fun for all ages!

Spend the afternoon learning about birds up close with one of our avian educators!



Sat. December 3 — Owl Prowl — Soldiers Delight Visitor Center — 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. — Shine only!

\$5/person. Call 410-922-3044 to register. Fun for all ages!*

Meet an ambassador owl from our aviary and take a one-mile hike to listen for wild owls. Learn about owl biology, habitat, diet and conservation. **Children under 16 must be with an adult.*

Sun. December 4 — Holiday Open House — Soldiers Delight Visitor Center — 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. — Rain or shine!

FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-922-3044 to register. Fun for all ages!

Come visit the aviary, craft seasonal decor, and buy scrumptious baked treats and spiced cider for a worthy cause as we celebrate the winter in style at Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area. Take a behind-the-scenes tour of the aviary to learn where injured and non-releasable raptors and reptiles reside when they are not educating the public about Maryland wildlife. Proceeds from this annual fundraiser, sponsored by the Friends of Soldiers Delight, go toward ongoing conservation and restoration efforts.



Mon. December 5 — World Soil Day Celebration — Soldiers Delight Visitor Center — 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-922-3044 to register. Fun for all ages! Rain or shine!

Join us for World Soil Day as we explore various soil types from across the globe and learn of their different properties and qualities. We will discover how soil forms over time, how plants adapt to different soil types, and how truly unique our soil is here at Soldiers Delight!



Mon. December 5 — Mammal Mania! — Hilton Nature Center — 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. — Rain or shine!

FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-461-5005 to register. Fun for all ages!*

Come learn about the furry creatures that live in the park! We'll learn basic mammal biology, fun facts, and get hands-on with real fur and bones! **The lecture will be geared toward adults, but kids will have fun with hands-on activities!*

Sat. December 10 — Morning Birding Hike — Soldiers Delight Visitor Center — 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. — Shine only!

FREE; donations welcome. Call 614-352-7718 to register. Fun for all ages!

Join a local ornithologist for a 2.3 mile hike in the unique serpentine grasslands. This is a good opportunity for beginning birders to learn the ropes, or experienced birders to explore a new area, or practice for the upcoming Bird Count! Bring binoculars if you have them, dress for the weather, and wear good hiking shoes for walking.



Sun. December 11 — Paws on the Trail — Lost Lake, Avalon Area — 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. — Shine only!

FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-461-5005 to register. Ages 12 and up.

Bring your furry friends to the park for a guided, leisurely 2-mile hike through the woods. Learn how to keep your dog safe in the park, and train to become a volunteer BARK Ranger! All dogs must be leashed and up to date on vaccines.

Sun. December 11 — *Stargazing* — Soldiers Delight Visitors Center — 8 p.m. - 11 p.m. — Shine only!
FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-922-3044 to register. Fun for all ages!

The Geminids is the king of the meteor showers! It is considered by many to be the best shower in the heavens, producing up to 120 multicolored meteors per hour at its peak. The shower runs annually from December 7 - 17, peaking on the 13th and 14th.



Thurs. December 15 — *Who is That? Tracks and Scat!* — Hilton Nature Center — 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
— Shine only!

\$3/person. Call 410-461-5005 to register. Fun for all ages!

Discover how to identify animal tracks in the park! Make your own track imprints and take home a souvenir! Dress for a mess, with good hiking shoes.



Wed. December 21 — *December Solstice* — Soldiers Delight Visitor Center — 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
\$5/person. Call 410-922-3044 to register. Fun for all ages! Rain or shine!

Join us in welcoming the first day of winter and the shortest day of the year by learning about the planetary processes that take place and how animals and man have used the solstice to calculate many events throughout history. Learn about the natural and cultural significance the Winter Solstice has had on the earth over the years. Non-releasable owls will be on hand to help demonstrate winter activity and adaptations.



Thurs. December 22 — *Birds in Winter* — Hilton Nature Center — 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. — Shine only!
FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-461-5005 to register. Fun for all ages!

Join a naturalist on a leisurely 2-mile hike to listen and look for wintering birds! Birders of all skills are welcome! After the hike, you'll have the option of joining our volunteer Bird Blitz team to submit your future birdwatching data to the park!



Tues. December 27 — *Mammal Mania!* — Hilton Nature Center — 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. — Rain or shine!

FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-461-5005 to register. Fun for all ages!*

Come learn about the furry creatures that live in the park! We'll learn basic biology of mammals, fun facts, and get hands-on with real fur and bones! **The lecture will be geared toward adults, but kids will have fun with hands-on activities!*

Wed. December 28 — *Animal Lecture Series* — Soldiers Delight Visitor Center — 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. — Rain or shine!

\$5/person. Call 410-922-3044 to register. Fun for all ages!

Part of a monthly series, where you can get up close and personal with animal ambassadors! December's program focuses on the barred owl; learn fun facts about their biology and habits!



JANUARY 2017 PROGRAM CALENDAR

Come out and play at Patapsco Valley State Park
& Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area!



Eligible for the Model B Junior Ranger program



Eligible for the BARK Ranger program

Every Sunday — Feathered Friends — Soldier's Delight Visitor Center — 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. — Rain or shine!

FREE; donations welcome. No registration needed! Fun for all ages!

Spend the afternoon at the Visitor Center, and learn about birds up close with one of our avian educators!



Sun. January 1 — Sunrise Hike — Soldier's Delight Overlook — 7:15 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.

FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-922-3004 to register. Fun for all ages! Shine only!

Join a volunteer park ranger for a sunrise hike along the Choate Mine Trail! Dress for a moderately easy 2-mile hike over uneven terrain. Bring drinking water. Leashed pets welcome!



Sun. January 1 — McKeldin First Day Hike — Plantation Trail, McKeldin Area — 10 a.m. -

12 p.m.

FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-461-5005 to register. Fun for all ages! Rain, snow, or shine!

Join park staff for a moderate, 2-mile hike along the McKeldin Area's Plantation Trail. Enjoy scenic views of the river, wildlife, and winter vistas. Dress for the weather with sturdy shoes. Bring drinking water. The McKeldin Areas is located at 11676 Marriottsville Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104. After passing the ranger station, follow signs to the parking lot and trailhead.



Sun. January 1 — Winter History Hike — Soldier's Delight Visitor Center — 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-922-3004 to register. Fun for all ages! Shine only!

Kick off the new year with an afternoon of exercise, learning, and positivity in the great outdoors! Join volunteer ranger and historian, Johnny Johnson, on New Year's Day for a winter history hike around Soldier's Delight Natural Environment Area! Visit the Red Dog Lodge, Choate Mine, and the scenic overlook. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for a moderately easy 2 mile hike in winter weather.



Sun. January 1 — Cascade Falls History Hike — Orange Grove Parking Lot — 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-461-5005 to register. Fun for all ages! Shine only!

Join the Maryland Conservation Corps as they lead you on a 2-mile, moderately difficult, scenic hike, filled with fun facts about nature and the history of the area! Enjoy alluring cascading waterfalls and dazzling winter hills and valleys! Afterward, warm up by the fireplace with hot coffee and cider at Pavilion 106. Bring drinking water and dress for the weather with sturdy shoes.



Thurs. January 5 — *Bird Blitz* — Orange Grove Swinging Bridge — 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. — Shine only! FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-461-5005 to register. Fun for all ages!

Birders of all skill levels are invited on a leisurely 2-mile hike along the paved Grist Mill Trail to listen and look for birds! Learn how to submit bird observation data to the park. Wear sturdy shoes. Bring water and binoculars.



Thurs. January 5 — *National Bird Day Celebration* — Soldier's Delight Visitor Center — 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

\$5/ person. Call 410-922-3044 to register. Fun for all ages! Rain or shine!

Come help us celebrate National Bird Day by learning about Maryland's native raptors. Meet several of our avian ambassadors up close as we explore their biology, habitat, diet, and conservation.

Sat. January 7 — *Strolling Along* — Orange Grove Swinging Bridge — 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. — Shine only! FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-461-5005 to register. Geared toward parents with strollers.

Load up the kids and strollers for an outdoor excursion through the woods! We'll walk at a leisurely pace on the paved Grist Mill trail for 2-3 miles.



Sun. January 8 — *New Year's Resolution* — Soldier's Delight Visitor Center— 2 p.m.- 3 p.m. — Rain or shine!

\$5/person. Call 410-922-3044 to register. Fun for all ages!

Join a naturalist at the Visitor Center to learn ways wildlife is threatened every day. Meet animal ambassadors up close to learn their stories, then make a resolutions book to help protect wildlife in 2017!



Weds. January 11 — *Observation Hike* — Hilton Nature Center — 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. — Shine only! \$2/person. Call 410-461-5005 to register. Ages 8 and up!

Join us on a leisurely 2-mile nature hike along the moderate terrain of the Santee Branch trail to observe the natural world around us! Learn how scientists search for clues and conduct wildlife research! Take home a new nature notebook to record your observations. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water.



Thurs. January 12— *Weather and Water; Winter Ecology* — Soldiers Delight Visitor Center — 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-922-3044 to register. Fun for all ages! Rain or shine!

Have you ever wondered how Maryland aquatic life survives and adapts to extreme changes from season to season? Come join us for an in-depth lecture on winter ecology and how it affects our ocean, lakes, ponds, rivers, and estuaries and learn how native aquatic life reacts to these seasonal transitions.



Fri. January 13 — *Deer Detectives* — Hilton Nature Center — 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. — Shine only! FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-461-5005 to register. Fun for all ages!

Come learn everything you ever wanted to know about white-tailed deer! Get hands-on with antlers and fur! Learn how to age a deer by their teeth! Discover how to find signs of deer in the wild and in your own backyard! Dress for a short hike and bring water.

Sat. January 14 — *Stargazing* — Soldier's Delight Visitor Center — 8 p.m. - 11 p.m. — Rain or shine!

FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-922-3044 to register. Fun for all ages!

Join our volunteer star and sky expert for our monthly stargazing extravaganza!

Tues. January 17 — *Wild for Wildlife* — Hilton Nature Center — 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. — Rain or shine!

\$3/person. Call 410-461-5005 to register. Fun for all ages!

Learn all about wildlife at the park! Play games, make fun crafts, and join us on a short hike!

Sat. January 21 — *Squirrel!* — Hilton Nature Center — 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. — Rain or shine!

\$3/person. Call 410-461-5005 to register. Fun for all ages!

It's National Squirrel Appreciation Day! Discover fun facts about these important forest dwellers. Make crafts and play a fun game to test whether your memory is as good as a squirrel's!



Sun. January 22— *Paws on the Trail* — Lost Lake, Avalon Area — 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. — Shine only! FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-461-5005 to register. Ages 10 and up.

Bring your furry friend to the park for a guided, leisurely 4-mile hike along the flat, paved Grist Mill trail. Learn how to keep your dog safe in the park, and train to become a volunteer BARK Ranger! All dogs must be leashed and up to date on vaccines. Call ahead to sign up; space is limited to 15 dogs.

Sun. January 22nd — *Hibernation Rotation* — Soldier's Delight Visitor Center— 12 p.m.- 1 p.m. — Rain or Shine!

\$5/person. Call 410-922-3044 to register.

Join one of Soldier's Delight naturalists at the Visitor Center on learning how animals survive the harsh winters of Maryland. Whether they migrate, hibernate, or stay dormant, all animals do something to protect themselves against the cold. See live animals up close and personal, taking a look at their adaptations and interesting characteristics.

Weds. January 25— *Tales of Creation* — Hilton Nature Center — 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. — Rain or shine!

\$3/person. Call 410-461-5005 to register. Geared toward younger kids, but all ages are welcome!

Gather 'round and listen to Native American stories of how the animals got their best-known features! Nature-themed stories will be followed by fun, kid-friendly crafts.

Thurs. January 26 — *Maryland Trivia* — Hilton Nature Center — 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. — Rain or shine!

FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-461-5005 to register. Fun for all ages!

How well do you know the state symbols of Maryland? What's the state tree? The state bird? Dinosaur? Dessert? Join us for a game of trivia! Earn prizes and finish up with a brief experience of the state exercise.

Mon. January 30 — *Hike for your Health* — Hilton Nature Center — 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. — Shine only!

FREE; donations welcome. Call 410-461-5005 to register. Fun for all ages!

Get your heart-pumping on the trails! Learn how to safely enjoy yourself and get a good workout while in the park. Dress for a moderate 4-5 mile hike down the Forest Glen Trail, along Grist Mill, up Vineyard Springs, and back around the Santee Branch Trail. Bring plenty of water!



Larry Hogan, *Governor*
Mark Belton, *Secretary*



Patapsco Valley State Park

8020 Baltimore National Pike
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

patapsco.statepark@maryland.gov

410-461-5005

Avalon/Glen Artney/Orange Grove Areas

5120 South Street
Halethorpe, Maryland 21227

Hilton Area

1101 Hilton Avenue
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area

5100 Deer Park Road
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

soldiersdelight.statepark@maryland.gov

410-922-3044

dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands

Program fees do not include park admission.

Programs may be subject to cancellation passed on minimum participation requirements, so please sign up in advance!

Staff-led programs are generally free, unless they require additional resources or training. Additional fees may be added to cover the cost of program materials. Volunteer-led programs are generally free; donations are accepted and given to the appropriate "Friends of" organization to benefit the park.

To make shelter or camping reservations, call 888-423-CAMP or visit reservations.dnr.state.md.us

In case of emergency, dial 9-11. To report a violation in a park, call 800-825-PARK

The facilities and services of the Department of Natural Resources are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, or physical or mental disability. This document is available in alternative format upon request from a qualified individual with a disability.

Accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Seven days notice is required.